

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Shirley Sanderson; Ron DeHaas; Helen Granger, The Independent; Arnold Dunchock; Daniel Loomis; Little League coaches and players; Cheryll Warren, The Argus Press; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the Olmsted Community Room in the Olmsted Public Library Complex by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated August 1, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Abstain: Johnson, Sanderson.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Presentation to Modern Woodmen and Presentation to the Summer Youth Program.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PRESENTATION TO MODERN WOODMEN: Mayor Corey presented Randy Thayer with a plaque thanking him and Modern Woodmen of America for their fundraising efforts to help support the 2005 City of Corunna summer youth program. Randy Thayer presented the parks and recreation department with a check for \$5,084 from the Modern Woodmen of America golf scramble fundraiser for the summer youth program.

PRESENTATION TO THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM: Mayor Corey presented plaques

and certificates to the coaches and players of the summer youth program.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Daniel Loomis introduced himself and advised he has formed a committee to look into the possibility of being a candidate for probate judge next year. He further advised he is looking at becoming a candidate because as a referee of the court he makes decisions regarding child support and parenting time that becomes immediate interim court orders. He gets to see kids but does not get to work with them and deal with their problems, which is something that he desires to do.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report. He explained the letter that was being sent out to the city residents explaining the sewer-relining project. There might be crews in town within the next two weeks to videotape the sewer laterals throughout town. He further explained the actual sewer-lining project will begin two to three weeks after the videoing process. Mr. Sawyer advised the city has received a notice from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding Machine Tool and Gear, who has been recognized as being a clean corporate citizen. He further advised the police department has had door hangers made to leave at businesses after doing door checks. He also advised the library will be expanding its hours starting in September from 34 hours per week to 45 hours per week, which will include Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON HANDICAP PARKING: Mayor Corey advised this item was initiated for discussion since it is difficult to see to traffic coming from S. Shiawassee Street at Mack Street. The police chief has recommended moving the handicap parking space in front of the post office to the first spot on the north side of East Mack Street, which will be the closest parking space for people with disabilities. Mr. Sawyer stated it is his assumption that the main interest is the visibility issue. When there is a large vehicle in that very northern most parking space, it presents an obstruction. He further stated the handicap parking issue is a secondary question because if that parking space is eliminated then the city will have to create another handicap parking space. The handicap parking space could be moved back 20 feet to the next space, which is the same distance to the first space on East Mack Street. He also stated it is a coin toss as to where the safer location would be because the traffic on North Shiawassee Street is sometimes very busy and dense while the traffic on East Mack Street is not. Mr. Sawyer advised it is the opinion of the police chief that it would be safer to have the handicap parking space next to the fire hall. Councilperson Mehig stated he initiated this discussion because he got a couple of phone calls from people. A person has to be almost out in the traffic on Shiawassee Street before a right hand turn can be made from Mack Street. He further stated this has been discussed before but it has come to the point where the city needs to do something before someone gets seriously injured. The city manager and police chief have a viable solution by eliminating the one parking space and moving the handicap parking space back one space. He further stated someone with a walker has to get out in traffic, which moves at a pretty good clip at certain times of the day. Mr. Sawyer advised the postmaster has received numerous complaints from customers about this visibility issue as well. If the parking spot is moved back 20 feet and a van is in that space, it would still be hard to see around it but there would be a little more visibility than what is there now. Councilperson Mehig asked if there was a time limit for handicap parking. Mr. Sawyer advised he did not believe there is. Councilperson Mehig stated this might be another option the city might

want to think about because most people who use that parking space are running into the post office or to the Sugar Shack. He suggested putting a 15 or 20-minute time limit on that space. Mr. Sawyer stated the postmaster also advised him that he has several regular daily customers who check their post office boxes who use a walker and he plans to speak to them to find out where these customers would like to see the handicap parking space moved to. Mr. Sawyer further stated it would be nice to get some input from people who use that parking space. Merilee Lawson advised she has received complaints that non-handicap people have used the handicap parking space. She asked why the post office does not have a handicap parking space behind their building. Mayor Corey advised it is not a public space. Mr. Sawyer stated a municipality is required to have a certain amount of handicap parking spaces and he believed the standard is one parking space per block and it has to be the closest one to the curb cut under the law. Councilperson Mehigh stated the safety of the people coming off of Mack Street should also be considered because someone is going to get hit there and he has seen a lot of near misses. Mayor Corey stated he did not think that corner is any worse now than it has been forever and it has always been difficult to see traffic from that location. He further stated the idea of limiting parking to 15 minutes for all of the parking spaces was a good idea. Councilperson Spring stated he parks in those spaces on Saturday mornings while he has breakfast and he is usually in the restaurant two or three hours talking to people and the biggest complaint is parking. The same problem exists at the intersection where the Cavalier Bar is located. He further stated he hates to see eliminating more parking spaces for the downtown businesses. Mr. Sawyer advised the parking spaces along the side of the fire hall are infrequently used spaces so he did not think the city would lose anything by moving the handicap parking space to East Mack Street. Mayor Corey stated he does not think the city has a parking issue as much as the unwillingness of people to walk. People can park in one of the parking lots, which are vacant on weekends. He further stated there are some places where people have to walk a block but the people here get upset if they cannot get a parking space in front of where they want to go. Councilperson Sanderson asked if moving the handicap parking space back one space would open up the corner a little bit more. Mr. Sawyer advised if the council decides to eliminate the first parking space completely since it is a visibility issue then the city needs to put a handicap parking space somewhere else and he is proposing to move this space to East Mack Street. Councilperson Runyan stated the businesses on the west side of Shiawassee Street from the first block from Mack Street to Corunna Avenue have no parking in the rear of their businesses so the city needs to open up some parking in the rear of these buildings because the businesses are hurting. Councilperson Mehigh stated the issue at hand is to improve the visibility and to help the handicap people on that corner. He would like to see Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Crawford put a proposal together that will limit parking to the four parking spaces on the east side of Shiawassee Street to 15 minutes, eliminate the handicap parking space in front of the post office and make the first parking space by the fire department a handicap parking space and then bring it to the council for action. Councilperson Johnson stated handicap people have a higher tendency to slip and fall. Mr. Sawyer advised if the parking space is eliminated then the handicap parking space is going to be farther away no matter where it is put. Councilperson Johnson stated the handicapped would also have a problem on Mack Street. Councilperson Sanderson stated if people want to shop bad enough, they will walk a block if they have to but cities continue to let people think that they have to park in front of a store and he thought people

would get used to walking if the parking spots are gone. Mayor Corey advised the parking lot behind city hall is rarely used and he has never seen it full. When people go to a shopping mall, they walk further than a block from their parking spot to get to the entrance of the mall. Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to do anything tonight or if there was a proposal. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like the city manager and his people to take a look at the situation and bring back several proposals for council to consider. Mr. Sawyer advised he would like to check with Capital Consultants first and it would be nice to give the postmaster a chance to get feedback from his customers. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to have the city manager bring a proposal with a few options back to the city council regarding visibility and the handicap situation by the second meeting in September.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Spring, Runyan.

No: Wagner.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SATA MILLAGE PROPOSAL: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to approve the following resolution as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 081505-01

BALLOT PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the Council has voted to approve a ballot proposal to be held on November 8, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City and its citizens to place a proposal on the ballot requesting the electors to approve the levy of up to \$13,755.20 for a period of one year to pay for public transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file a request with the Shiawassee County Clerk's office requesting approval of a ballot proposal on the November 8, 2005 election.

2. That at the Election the following proposition be placed on the ballot for consideration by the registered voters in the City:

"Shall a new additional millage for public transportation services be levied in an amount not to exceed .2434 mill (\$.2434 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of one year?"

3. The City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election to the electors of the City by causing notice of the election, to be published in the newspaper published in or of general circulation in the City, at least twice before the election date.

4. The City Clerk is also directed to give notice of the last day of registration to vote in the Election, to the electors of the City by causing said notice to be published in a newspaper published in or of general circulation in the City, at least twice before the last day of registration.

5. The City Clerk is also directed to have proper ballots prepared and provided in sufficient quantity for the Election; and do all things and provide all supplies necessary for the Election, as required by law to be done.

6. The proposition to be voted on at the election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the manner appearing in the foregoing notice.

7. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are rescinded.

**NEW ADDITIONAL MILLAGE PROPOSAL
(PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE)**

This proposal requests authorization for the levy of a new additional millage for the purpose of supporting the provision of public transportation services in the City of Corunna. This millage would be disbursed to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency and used to defray the expenses of existing transportation services and expansion of those services in the future. If authorized by the voters, it is estimated that the levy of the entire millage would generate \$13,755.20 for the first year.

Shall a new additional millage for public transportation services be levied in an amount not to exceed .2434 mill (\$.2434 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of one year?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TOWER LEASE: Ron DeHaas from Michigan Online advised he has been in business for five years and his company has grown so rapidly that he now has offices on three consecutive blocks in Corunna. He further advised he just opened up a new administrative office across from the barbershop and he enjoys working in Corunna and is committed to staying here. He discussed his three companies; Michigan Online, Day Star Communications and Covenant Eyes. He also advised his company recently lost a significant client, Riverwalk Apartments, when Art Irish sold his cable communication system to a competitor from Lansing. Mr. DeHaas stated his company was already in the

process of looking at developing a wireless network in Shiawassee County to provide Internet service throughout the county and he accelerated the start up of this development when he lost Riverwalk Apartments. He further stated he would like to put one or two masts on the city's water tower in order to broadcast Internet service. In doing so, he believes he will be able to develop a very low cost wireless Internet service countywide. He also stated the City of Corunna would get free Internet and telephone service to the water tower, which would provide the capability of putting a web cam on the water tower so it can be monitored 24 hours a day. Mr. DeHaas advised as the wireless network is developed throughout the Corunna area, he would provide free Internet service to specific remote computers owned and operated for Corunna city business. In addition, Corunna city residents who present a valid water or sewer bill to Michigan Online would be offered a seven percent discount, which would make Internet access less than \$23.00 per month. He also advised he would like to proceed as soon as possible because the water tower is the kingpin to get to other water towers. The City of Durand wants the service on their water tower but it cannot get there without a high point and the City of Corunna water tower would give him a direct line to the Durand water tower. Mr. DeHaas explained there is a sense of urgency for a much smaller matter, which would be to get permission to use the tower at the DPW building. Michigan Online currently provides Internet and telephone service to that building so he would be willing to trade free Internet access and telephone service to that building for use of the tower. Mayor Corey asked if access to the DPW tower would be permanent or temporary. Mr. DeHaas advised he would accept either. Councilperson Johnson asked what the city is paying for Internet service and telephone service. Mr. DeHaas advised around \$130.00 to \$140.00 per month. Councilperson Johnson stated this might help assist the fire department and ambulance service in the future when the county decides to go to 800 mhz because the fire department and ambulance service would have to have a computer in their vehicles. Mayor Corey asked what the speed difference was between wireless compared to fiber optic. Mr. DeHaas advised fiber optic is incredible and has unlimited speed. There is a practical limit for wireless, which is probably in the 10-megabyte range. Mayor Corey asked if the entire City of Corunna could be covered by the water tower. Mr. DeHaas advised no. Mayor Corey asked how much of Corunna would be covered. Mr. DeHaas advised he did not know but he would guess about seven miles. Mayor Corey asked Mr. DeHaas if this was something that he would be willing to do at his cost. Mr. DeHaas advised he would love to do that eventually, but he cannot afford to do it right now because it would take about 15 towers at \$2,000 per tower. Mr. Sawyer asked if the towers at city hall would be very helpful. Mr. DeHaas advised yes. Mr. Sawyer advised city hall has Internet service and telephones there as well. Mayor Corey asked if free Internet service could be given to city hall since there is a tower there. Mr. DeHaas advised yes. Mayor Corey asked Mr. DeHaas if his proposal was to have exclusive use of the tower. Mr. DeHaas advised he did not write that into the contract but he can guarantee the city that as long as the contract is in force, he would maintain offices in Corunna and access to the tower would be contingent upon providing free Internet and telephone service to the tower. He does not expect to tie the city's hands but he hopes the city recognizes the strength of his company and the ability to contribute to the community. In return, he hopes the city will use some discretion in giving exclusive access to the tower. Councilperson Spring asked what would prevent Mr. DeHaas from running everything from Durand once permission is given to use our water tower and if Corunna's water tower has some special significance over

some other city. Mr. DeHaas advised his telephone company has to be co-located in the Corunna Verizon building and he does not have any plans to be co-located in Durand. Mayor Corey asked if two weeks would be sufficient to give him an answer. Mr. DeHaas advised yes but he would appreciate the council taking action on the DPW tower tonight. Councilperson Mehigh asked if temporary authorization would get his company by. Mr. DeHaas advised yes. Councilperson Wagner stated there are quite a few residents who rent or do not have city water or sewer so he would like to see something else used to verify residency. Mr. Sawyer suggested showing a voter registration card. Mr. Sawyer advised he would encourage council to give Mr. DeHaas the go ahead on the DPW tower because the city would save about \$1,800 per year in Internet and telephone charges. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Sawyer if he would negotiate a permanent agreement for the DPW tower before the 90-day temporary approval expires. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Johnson asked who would be responsible for damages if lightning strikes the tower because the city has paid for damage caused by a lightning strike. Mr. DeHaas advised there must be a lightning rod on the water tower. Mr. Sawyer advised he would like to see a flagpole and flag on top of the water tower. Councilperson Spring asked if an agreement would come back to council within 90 days. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to allow the city manager to negotiate terms for a 90-day temporary approval for an antenna on the DPW building with the Michigan Online Group. Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to put the Michigan Online Group contract on the agenda for the next regular council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton stated the other side of Mack Street heading towards Shiawassee Street is just as bad because you cannot see around the bridge and she knows the city cannot move the bridge. She goes down to Corunna Avenue to make her turns when the traffic is bad.

Scott Johnson asked how much involvement the city's water tower has with the Flint and Owosso flight pattern. Mr. Sawyer advised he has never heard of it ever being referenced. Mayor Corey suggested getting FAA approval before putting anything on top of the tower. He asked Mr. DeHaas if he had to get approval to put an antenna on the McBride tower. Mr. DeHaas advised no because the tower already existed but he has FAA approval for a tower on top of his building located across from the post office.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson stated Kim Williams is not here tonight but he wanted to thank him and his fellow people for the job they have done on S. Shiawassee Street. The traffic in that area has slowed down during the last two weeks more than it has in the past five years and he appreciates the work the police department

has put in. Mr. Sawyer advised the police department doubled up a four-hour shift during fair week due to the traffic coming through town and it was helpful.

Councilperson Spring advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Wagner advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Johnson asked Scott Johnson to explain the billable fire runs versus the non-billable fire runs and what constitutes a non-billable fire run. She advised people are charged \$500 and commercial property owners are charged \$1,000 and asked what the commercial property owners would be charged if the fire run fees are raised. Scott Johnson advised the fire board has given him approval to call the local insurance companies in the area to find out if they have upped the amount they will pay for house fires, car fires or accidents but he does not have that information tallied yet. He further advised the fire board is trying to figure out a better way to fund the fire run account and increase its money so a new fire truck can be purchased without putting a burden on the city and township. He also advised the fire run fund paid for the tanker truck that was bought in 2000, which is paid for, so the fire run fee has worked out very well. If the fire run fee for a house fire can be increased to \$1,000, it would help offset a fire truck payment. Mr. Johnson stated if the insurance companies have not increased the amount they will pay, it would put a burden on the taxpayers, which the fire department does not want to do. He further stated a personal injury notification is when the fire department is called out for an unknown accident. A fire department officer usually goes to the scene to make a determination if the fire department is needed or not. He also stated once the fire department is toned out the city, township, and fire board are liable for that incident. Mr. Johnson advised if the fire department or officer responds to the scene and they are not needed, the fire department returns to the fire hall and this is a non-billable fire run, but if the fire department does a spill containment, wash down, or unhooks a battery then the car insurance is billed because the fire department made the scene safe for the ambulance crew, police department, etc. He further advised central dispatch determines if it is necessary to tone out the fire department. He does not bill the first fire alarm for commercial property but if it goes off more than once in a year, then they are billed. Councilperson Mehig asked if other government offices can be billed. Mr. Johnson advised if the fire department is called out to assist the police department, ambulance service, or sheriff's department, they are not billed because this was an agreement that the fire board made quite a few years ago with those agencies. Mr. Sawyer stated the difference is the city pays for the sheriff's department and they do not pay for the fire department. Mayor Corey stated he did not understand that agreement because it is a one-way agreement. The city is paying for the fire department but it is also paying the sheriff's department to do what they are doing. Mr. Johnson advised there have not been too many assists for the sheriff's department. Most of the assists are lift assists for the ambulance service. Mayor Corey asked why the fire department does not charge for those assists. Mr. Johnson advised the ambulance service come to the fire scenes and takes blood pressures to make sure the men are okay. If everyone starts billing each other, the ambulance service can bill the fire department a maximum of \$800 to transport one of the firemen to the hospital and the \$500 fire run fee he would charge would be wiped out. Mr. Sawyer asked if there are a lot of lift assist calls to the medical care facility. Mr. Johnson

advised no. Ms. Lawson asked if Consumers Energy is billed when a power line is down or if there is a transformer fire. Mr. Johnson advised yes, which does not make a very good working relationship between the city and Consumers Energy but when Consumers Energy does work for the city, the city is billed. Councilperson Johnson asked Mr. Johnson if he has heard anything about the money the fire department is supposed to get back from the Vaunguarde fire. Mr. Johnson advised no. Ms. Lawson asked if interest or a penalty is assessed on the fire runs that are not paid within 30 days. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Councilperson Runyan stated unpaid fire runs located within the governmental boundaries of Corunna or Caledonia Township are put on the property taxes and any unpaid fire runs for people not in living in the city or township are sent to a collection agency. He further stated the fire department loses about \$140 for every fire run sent to a collection agency but the fire board approved to charge a 29 percent collection fee to each fire run that is sent to the collection agency at its last meeting so the fire department will only lose \$43 per fire run

Councilperson Runyan advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Mehig advised he had nothing to discuss.

ADJOURN: Runyan moved, Mehig seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:25 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER